

Chapter 10: Understanding and Characterizing the Social Community

Presenter:

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Introduction

- Achieving community resilience is a social process
- The purpose of this chapter is to provide context and tools to guide the planning team in understanding and characterizing the social community



Social Institutions



- Step 2 – Understand the Situation
- Requires identifying these drivers and how they interact with each other and the built environment
- These institutions should be specifically defined for individual communities



Social Capital and Community Engagement

- In implementing the methodology, it is important to identify and to draw upon a community's social capital
- Social capital is represented by social networks, associations, and the reciprocity and trust generated by them among individuals, groups, and communities
- It enhances a community's ability to work toward collective goals—such as planning for resilience
- Step 1 – Form a Collaborative Planning Team
- Step 2 – Understand the Situation



Social Vulnerability

- Not all people use community systems and/or have access to community systems in the same ways
- Community leaders should identify populations who are most vulnerable
- Step 2 – Understand the Situation
- Incorporate the perspectives and needs of these populations in the planning process



Understanding Capacity

- In characterizing the social environment, it is important that communities identify their strengths and capacities
- Communities have social, cultural, historical, and other characteristics that make them unique
- Identifying and drawing upon these local capacities as outlined in the Guide are critical to building resilience



Dependencies Among and Within Social Institutions

- A disruption in the built environment that affects one social institution will likely affect others
- Identifying the ways in which social institutions are connected with each other, referred
- to in the Guide as *dependencies*, is critical to a comprehensive understanding of a community's resilience
- There are also dependencies *within* social institutions
- These are likely to vary over time and depend on the nature of the connections



Links between Social Institutions and the Built Environment

- Social institutions rely on the built environment, and some rely on it more heavily than others
- Step 2 – Understand the Situation
- Examples of how the social institutions rely on the built environment
- The tables presented in this chapter offer ways for communities to consider these linkages to support the process of planning for resilience



Links Between Social Institutions and Buildings

	Purpose of Buildings within each Social Institution	How Purpose is Actualized within Built Environment	Possible Impacts if Buildings are Damaged	
			Direct	Indirect
Family	Provide a place to live; build a family; provide shelter, safety and security; provide a place for belonging (among family/friends)	Housing (e.g., single-family; multi-family; etc.)	Loss of shelter, personal possessions; displaced population; increased casualties; increased mental distress	Overcrowding; inability to locate and communicate with others; increased unrest/crime; loss of workforce
Economic	Prepare materials for transport; store materials and products; house equipment and machinery; design and develop goods (buildings and manufactured products); process raw materials; production location; point of sale; locations for employment, commerce/exchange, recreation	Processing facility; warehouse; commercial office; processing plant; manufacturing facility; warehouse; goods (buildings and manufactured products) for sale; stores; malls; restaurants; banks; hotels; schools and colleges; hospitals and medical facilities; arenas/stadia; salons and barbershops; Internet cafes; online storefronts; gas stations; airports; houses and apartments	Loss of revenue; loss of employment; loss of materials on-hand; loss of goods and services for sale; loss of income; loss of means of production	Loss of taxes; loss of market share; price increases; shortages; decreased spending; increased demand of substitutes; decreased demand for complements; increased demand for unemployment benefits; increased supply of labor in 'like' industries; loss of residents
Government	Provide work and meeting space for leaders and staff; serve as a document repository; protect communication systems; house public safety and emergency response capabilities (people; equipment; vehicles); provide public spaces for recreation	Offices; police stations; fire and EMS stations; emergency operations centers (EOCs); military installations; jails and prisons; government chambers; courts and courthouses; libraries and archives	Diminished emergency response; disruption to government continuity; loss of archived materials	Increased casualties and economic damage; increased opportunity for social disorder and crime; inability to respond to emergent issues and needs; loss of residents
Health	Provide places to receive emergency care; to address short- and long-term health needs (physical and mental); store medical records, equipment, and pharmaceuticals	Hospitals; clinics; mental health agencies; urgent care centers; poison centers; dialysis centers; rehabilitation centers; hospices; assisted living facilities; nursing homes; pharmacies; residential/housing (e.g., home health care)	Decreased ability to treat; increased casualties; increased mental distress	Increased long-term causality rates; increased disease transmission; loss of residents
Education	Provide places to learn; to interact/connect; storage for equipment and books	Schools; universities (campus and dormitories); educational offices; museums; libraries	Loss of shelter; displaced student population	Decreased economic productivity; lower wages; loss of residents
Community Service Organization	Provide places where basic needs can be met (in some cases; shelter and sustenance); locations where people can interact with others	Housing and provision of sustenance, offices	Loss of food, water; shelter for at-risk populations; increased mental distress	Increased at-risk population; increased crime; loss of residents/volunteers
Religious Organization	Provide places of worship; social interaction; education; daycare; and other basic services; provide places to house and protect religious and cultural artifacts/documents (<i>the buildings themselves may be considered sacred or have symbolic meaning</i>)	Churches; synagogues; other places of worship; meeting places	Loss of shelter; loss of cultural value; increased mental distress	Increased at-risk population
Media	Provide places to gather and disseminate news and information; protect all media technology and equipment	News and broadcasting stations; television stations; radio station; newspapers/ magazine publishing; publishers' headquarters; offices; equipment/ computer storage	Loss of information; loss of the dissemination of information	Increased uncertainty; increased threat exposure



Links Between Social Institutions and Transportation

	Purpose of Transportation within each Social Institution	How Actualized within Built Environment	Possible Impacts if Transportation Systems are Damaged	
			Direct	Indirect
Family	Access to and from housing, i.e., to and from locations for employment, social events, shopping, and other locations important to the family.	Roads and bridges; airports; railways and rail stations; seaports; pipelines; tunnels; subways; public transit	Displaced population (lack of access); inability to physically connect with others	Demand for short-term and nearby shelter alternatives
Economic	Distribute goods for processing; obtain labor and capital; distribute intermediate goods; distribute final goods and products for sale; bring sellers (providers) and consumers together; transport of products; getting to and returning from work		Supply chain disruptions; loss of employment; consumers unable to obtain survival goods	Loss of taxes; decreased demand of complements; increased demand of substitutes; decreased spending; increased demand for unemployment benefits; increased supply of labor in 'like' industries Loss of market share
Government	Provide access to services; facilitates delivery of services (including emergency response, patrol, and surveillance); provide physical access to lawmakers and law-making bodies; provide physical access to legal venues; Transport of products		Diminished emergency response; disruption to government continuity	Increased casualties and economic damage; increased opportunity for social disorder and crime; Understaffing; inability to respond to emergent issues and needs
Health	Provide access to and from health services for patients, staff; Delivery of equipment, materials, and supplies		Longer travel times for care/delivery of supplies; increased casualties; increased number of acute patients; increased mental distress	Equipment and supply shortages; understaffing; overloading of health care system
Education	Provide access to and from educational services for students/parents; teachers		Displaced student population (lack of access)	Increased reliance on distance learning
Community Service Organization	Provide access to and from CSO services for clients, staff, volunteers; transport of products		Inability of at-risk population to obtain food, water and shelter; increased mental distress	Increased at-risk population
Religious Organization	Provide access to and from religious and cultural services for leaders, staff, congregation, community members		Increased mental distress	Increased at-risk population
Media	Provide access to and from media services; also to news sites		Inability to obtain information	Spread of misinformation

